

survey of the animal kingdom. In their entirety it might justly be claimed for them that they form one of the most popular text-books of zoology which has ever appeared. Thus they differ from most other books of their kind, which are of little use save as a source of reference to the actual specimens exhibited.

In the Guide to the Whale-Room of the Museum Mr. Lydekker has, in a surprisingly small space, contrived to pack an amazing amount of information concerning these creatures, the most highly specialized of all the Mammalia. Though most of the facts here given have found their way long since into the majority of popular natural history books, much is here included that will be new to the general reader, as, for example, the fact that certain of the whales, notably the Indian Porpoise, have "minute scales embedded in the skin of part of the back; and these suggest that whales are derived from animals furnished with a complete bony armour." We should have preferred the term "bony nodules" in place of "scales"; the nature of these would perhaps have been brought home to the reader the more forcibly if it had been pointed out that they were comparable to the bony plates covering the back of the armadillo.

The short account of the extinct Cetaceans is admirable, and adds immensely to the value of this most wonderful summary of a group of animals of which little is known by the general public.

The illustrations have evidently been selected with the greatest care and are singularly well reproduced.

*Guide to the Specimens illustrating the Races of Mankind (Anthropology) exhibited in the Department of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History).* Illustrated by 16 Figures. London: Printed by Order of the Trustees, 1903. Price 4d.

MR. LYDEKKER'S Guide to the Anthropological Collection is an extremely useful piece of work. The formation and arrangement of this collection, it should be remembered, was entirely carried out by Mr. Lydekker. In the near future we hope to see this collection still further enlarged, for in this particular we are behind our neighbours the Germans. But to return to the Guide. In the preparation of this the Author was confronted with a difficult task, for a guide-book must of necessity be brief, and it could have been no easy matter to condense even the main outlines of anthropology in so small a space. The classification of the races of mankind is a thorny subject, and from its general unfamiliarity an exceedingly difficult subject to present in a popular form; and the Author has certainly come well out of the ordeal.

There is only one slip to which we would direct attention, and this concerns the Bisharis, which on p. 11 are placed in the Semitic group and on p. 12 are included in the Hamitic group, being described as the purest East-African representatives thereof.

The illustrations, as in the Guide just noticed, are excellent.